

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 871 - SB 835

March 3, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) to develop, on or after January 1, 2018, a plan for a consumer and provider education campaign on mental health and alcoholism or drug dependence parity and to establish entities to support consumers in understanding appeals and complaints.

In addition, the TDCI must also:

- On or after January 1, 2018, conduct a broad public education campaign to alert consumers to the existence of both federal and state parity laws and the state agencies and consumer support resources available in this state, including the Consumer Insurance Services Section (CISS) of the TDCI. Requires the campaign be conducted in consultation with the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (Mental Health);
- On or before December 31, 2018, provide, or cause to be provided, at least two live trainings in each grand division on parity for consumers and providers and two webinar trainings to be posted on the TDCI's website. Separate trainings are required to be developed and implemented for consumers and providers, and must be made available for health advocates and enrollment assisters who work with consumers experiencing problems with health insurance and parity;
- On or before January 1, 2018, establish a consumer hotline to assist consumers in navigating the parity process and it is required that such hotline be operated by the CISS;
- Provide on the TDCI's website general information about parity in non-technical, readily understandable language, including examples of possible parity violations. Such information is required to be accessible via links on other state department websites, such as Mental Health, and advertised broadly as part of the consumer and provider education campaign;
- Provide on the TDCI's website and on health insurance plan documents a prominently displayed notice that complaints regarding noncompliance with the federal Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (Pub. L. No. 110-343) may be filed with the TDCI and contact information for insurers and state agencies where appeals and complaints may be filed;
- Provide on TDCI's website a prominently displayed notice that an insured may obtain assistance in filing an appeal or complaint with an insurer or the TDCI from the CISS; and
- On or before January 1, 2019, issue a report to the General Assembly that includes results of a formal evaluation of the education program and plans for continuing or modifying consumer education efforts in this state.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - \$3,800/One-Time
\$68,000/Recurring**

Assumptions:

- This bill shall become effective upon becoming law.
- According to the TDCI, one additional administrative services assistant 4 position will be necessary to fully administer the requirements of this legislation.
- A recurring increase in state expenditures of \$67,973 (salary \$49,100 + benefits \$11,317 + FICA \$3,756 + office lease \$2,200 + communications \$1,000 + supplies \$600) and one-time state expenditures of \$3,800 (computer/network \$1,800 + office furniture \$2,000).
- Mental Health can provide any consultation services necessary for TDCI to effectuate the provisions of this bill utilizing existing staff during normal work hours.

IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

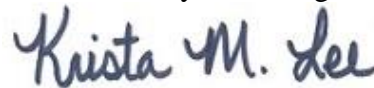
NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumption:

- Passage of this bill is not expected to result in any significant impact on commerce or jobs in Tennessee.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jdb